

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 AF-10 /070 W
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O R 201247Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1664
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: CONTINUED PRESS PLAY ON APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR
SCHAUFLELE

REF: ATHENS 6694

1. THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLELE TO GREECE CONTINUES
TO RECEIVE BROAD AND VARIED PRESS COVERAGE. WIDE ATTENTION
IS ALLOTTED TO ALLEGATIONS THAT THE USG HAS DECIDED OR IS
SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CANCELLING THE APPOINTMENT. A GOG SPOKESMAN,
ASKED YESTERDAY (JULY 19) TO COMMENT ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT,
REPLIED OBLIQUELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT "IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO
SERVE THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL INTERESTS" AND THAT THE GOG HAD
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NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE AT THIS STAGE. OPPOSITION PASOK LEADER
ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, MEANWHILE, ATTACKED THE GOG FOR NOT TAKING
A STAND, DECLARED "UNACCEPTABLE" THE CLARIFICATIONS BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE SCHAUFLELE
CASE CLOSED BECAUSE OF "STATEMENTS WHICH BEG THE QUESTION."

2. MANY NEWSPAPERS OF VERY DIFFERENT ORIENTATION TODAY

CONCENTRATED ON WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT USG MAY NOT IN THE
END SEND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TO GREECE. PRO-GOVERNMENT
ACROPOLIS, QUOTING "GOOD SOURCES" IN WASHINGTON, SAID THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF NOT POSTING
AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE BECAUSE THE STRONG GREEK REACTION TO
HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SFRC WILL MAKE HIS MISSION IN GREECE
TOO DIFFICULT AND BECAUSE HIS APPOINTMENT WOULD HARM US-GREEK
RELATIONS. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI WAS MORE CATEGORICAL, STATING
THAT ACCORDING TO "DEPARTMENT OF STATE SOURCES" THE USG HAD
DECIDED TO CANCEL THE SCHAUFLE APPOINTMENT. LEFTISH TA NEA
IN A STORY DATED WASHINGTON SAID IF THE USG INSISTED
ON PUSHING THE APPOINTMENT, AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WOULD BE
ISOLATED, SINCE HE WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN GREECE. COMMUNIST
(KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI REFERRED TO "JOURNALISTIC INFORMATION FROM
WASHINGTON" AS RECALLING RUMORS OF A RIFT BETWEEN THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE, WHICH TOGETHER WITH
THE SFRC TESTIMONY LEADS TO THE IMPRESSION THAT AMBASSADOR
SCHAUFLE WILL NOT COME TO ATHENS. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
ATHENS DAILY POST ACCOUNT, CITING "WELL INFORMED WESTERN
DIPLOMATS IN ATHENS," CLAIMED OUTRIGHT THAT THE USG HAD DECIDED NOT
TO APPOINT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE AS THE NEW ENVOY BECAUSE OF
THE SHARP REACTION IN ATHENS. MANY VERSIONS POINTED OUT THAT
A STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT (FOLLOWING THE DEBRIEFING
BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH) WAS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY WHICH WOULD
UNDERLINE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY
TOWARDS THE AEGEAN AREA OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND THAT
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AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WOULD NOT BE SENT TO GREECE.

3. INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI COVERAGE OF THE MATTER WAS BASED
ON AN ARTICLE BY LESLIE FINER WHICH RECOUNTED THE SURPRISE
IN WASHINGTON AT THE REACTION IN GREECE, SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE'S POSITION WOULD BECOME KNOWN AFTER AMBASSADOR KUBISCH'S
DEBRIEFING AND CONCLUDED THAT THE RUCKUS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER,
BLOCK AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S COMING TO ATHENS. COMMUNIST
(KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS PREDICTED THAT THE SOLUTION WHICH
HAD BEEN AGREED UPON WOULD BE FOR A NEW STATEMENT ON THE AEGEAN
TO BE MADE SOON BY THE USG AND PREDICTED AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE
WOULD NOT ARRIVE AUGUST 7.

4. A FEW NEWSPAPERS GAVE THE ISSUE LIGHT TREATMENT SUCH AS
PRO-GOVERNMENT APOYEVMATINI AND EXTREME RIGHT ELEFTHEROS
COSMOS. TO VIMA'S PLAY ON DEVELOPMENTS, SURPRISINGLY, WAS VERY
LOW-KEY AND WAS FOLDED INTO A BROADER ARTICLE COVERING PASOK
LEADER PAPANDREOU'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, TO VIMA'S
EDITORIAL CALLED FOR A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OTHER THAN SCHAUFLE,
WHO, IF HE CAME, THE PAPER WARNED, WOULD BE OSTRACIZED BY
THE GREEK PEOPLE. ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA'S EDITORIAL
ENDORSED TO VIMA'S POSITION YESTERDAY TO THE EFFECT THAT DEVELOPMENTS

HAD MADE IT UNWISE TO SIGN A US-GREEK BASES AGREEMENT. FINALLY,
MORE CAUSTIC CARTOONS HAVE APPEARED IN A NUMBER OF PAPERS
INDICATING THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE ARE PREPARING A VERY UNFRIENDLY
RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLELE WHEN HE ARRIVES.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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